

Please provide the following new abstract of the disclosure:

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In a method and apparatus for encoding or decoding data, a fire code is used for this with a polynomial $G(x) = P(x)(1 + x^C)$, wherein the value for C can be variably selected, and in addition, the error correction and detection properties of the redundancy integrated into the decoding apparatus can be set independently of the encoding device, and these properties depend solely on the number of redundancy bits used.